

Name:

Necole Cichowlas

How long have you lived in the L'Anse Creuse Community?

9 years

Have you served on any school or district committees? If so, please list committees and your role (chair, co-chair, or participant).

I have been a member of the Green Elementary PTC for the last 8 years, I currently serve as President. I am on the Parent Advisory Board. I most recently became a member of the L'Anse Creuse Foundation. I previously served as a member of the Building Utilization Committee. Earlier this year I Co-Chaired the L'Anse Creuse Citizens Committee

Do you attend Board of Education meetings, if so how often?

I have been attending board meetings off and on for the past few years and though watching them online is not the same as actual attendance I have watched every meeting and workshop ever recorded. I do strive to stay informed on what is happening in and around our district.

Have you served as a volunteer in the community? If so, for what organization?

Yes, for the last 8 years I have volunteered for Girl scouts of South East Michigan

Family:

Spouse: My husband John serves on the Detroit Fire Department for the last 30 years.

Children: I have 3 children. Mia, Brady & Lola **How many in LCPS?** Mia attends MSN. Brady & Lola both go to Green Elementary.

Career:

I am a career hairdresser previously owning two very successful salons. Once I began having children I was fortunate enough to sell those businesses in order to direct my focus on our family. I currently assist my husband in his company DETROIT FIRE TEES.

Education:

I graduated from Regina High school in 1995. I received my cosmetology license from the State of Michigan Apprentice Program. Attended Macomb Community College Pre-Nursing Program.

What do you think is the purpose of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Board of Education?

The Board determines policies for the management & care of the schools within our district as well as hires the Superintendent.

What particular or added dimensions would you would bring to the Board if voted in?

I currently have children in elementary school and Middle school, I have a strong understanding of what students, parents & community members want and expect from their district. I understand the realization that tough decisions are made on a daily basis, I hope to bring all the views of our community back to the board so a well informed decision can be made. As a Board Member I will explore every aspect of an issue before voicing my opinion. I will listen to all opinions with an open mind. I will respect each student's individual strengths and abilities.

What do you feel are the three most positive aspects of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

#1. School of choice, we are an excellent district I love that we share that with as many eligible students as possible.

#2. Definitely our Elementary schools and I have visited them all. It's where it all begins it really does set the foundation for our children. They are warm and welcoming and each one of them offers a true sense of community, a real place to grow some roots. Here families get a real understanding of what it means when they hear "WE ARE L'ANSE CREUSE"

#3 Our High School program always blows me away, it amazes me not only the resources available to our students but also all the different options they have.

What do you feel are the three greatest challenges facing L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

Declining enrollment, continued loss of revenue, search for new superintendent.

What is your understanding of how our schools are financed? How could the district maintain a balanced budget?

There is a State school Aid Fund. Each school district is given a per pupil foundation allowance. The amount we receive per pupil varies every year and is directly tied to the State school fund. Maintaining a balanced budget does not have a cut and dry answer there will be many budget principals that will need to be taken into consideration and adopted.

What is your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the overall operations of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

At this time I feel our biggest weakness is our Board of Education. I believe in diversity, diversity is good it spurs ideas. However I think too much public diversity has cast a negative light on our district. I also feel it has prevented our Board of Education from moving forward on many issues. Our greatest strength is despite all that diversity we have managed to maintain our level of excellence.

If you win a seat on the Board of Education, what would you seek to accomplish?

I would like to think that in 6 years that answer will evolve, for today I will answer with consistency. I would like to see a level of consistency for our students and our staff I would like to be able to offer them a sense of security. I intend to work respectfully with all Board Members to create a challenging collaborative learning community that prepares all students for success in a global society.

To what extent do you think Board members should be involved in legislative activities?

I think it is the responsibility of the Board of Education to be informed at all times with any parts of legislature that would impact our schools.

Additional comments:

I will be fiscally responsible. Above all else I will always hold the best interest of the district in mind. I will value the importance of district tradition and history and will strive to form collaborative partnerships with community members, parents and teachers.

Our Board needs a positive change, I am that positive change!